

Message Text

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P 230045Z JAN 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MADRID PRIORITY

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EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MASS, SP

SUBJECT: SISCO EXPLAINS U.S. ARMS POLICY TOWARD MOROCCO
TO SPANISH AMBASSADOR

1. UNDER SECY SISCO CALLED IN SPANISH AMBASSADOR JAIME
ALBA JAN 21ST TO EXPLAIN U.S. POSITION ON ARMS SALES TO
MOROCCO. ACTING ASST. SECY STABLER AND IBERIAN DIRECTOR
LUKENS ALSO PRESENT AS WELL AS SPANISH POLCOUNS ZULUETA.

2. SISCO TOLD ALBA THAT SECRETARY HAD ASKED HIM TO
EXPLAIN CAREFULLY OUR POLICY OF ARMS DELIVERIES TO
MOROCCO. FOLLOWING SPECIFIC POINTS WERE MADE:

(A) IN FY 74 WE MADE DIRECT LOAN TO MOROCCO FOR
MILITARY PURCHASES OF \$3 MILLION PLUS GRANT AID FOR
TRAINING PURPOSES OF \$628,000. (SISCO EXPLAINED THAT
GRANT AID MONEY USED FOR TRAINING IN U.S. AND THAT,
THEREFORE, NO CASH HAND-OUTS INVOLVED).

(B) USG WILL SHORTLY OFFER GOM GUARANTEE \$14 MILLION
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IN COMMERCIAL LOANS FOR FY 75 MILITARY PURCHASES, PLUS

GRANT AID FOR TRAINING AMOUNTING TO \$860,000.

(C) FUTURE MILITARY CREDITS TO GOM MAY RISE OR FALL, DEPENDING ON CONGRESSIONAL ACTION, BUT GRANT TRAINING FIGURE WILL REMAIN ABOUT \$900,000 ANNUALLY. MAJOR

PORTION OF FUTURE MOROCCAN ARMS PURCHASES WILL BE PAID IN CASH, WHICH GOM SEEMS TO HAVE AT THIS TIME.

3. SISCO THEN EXPLAINED THAT USG POLICY OF MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO MOROCCO WAS ALSO IN SPAIN'S INTEREST. HASSAN'S MODERATE REGIME NEEDS SUPPORT AND ANY OTHER ALTERNATIVE SOURCES OF ASSISTANCE WOULD BE WORSE FROM POINTS OF VIEW OF BOTH USG AND SPAIN. SISCO WENT ON TO EXPLAIN THAT MOROCCO'S MILITARY MODERNIZATION PROGRAM WAS MODEST BY ANY STANDARD. IN THIS CONNECTION, FOLLOWING POINTS WERE STRESSED:

(A) GOAL OF TWO BRIGADES OF MECHANIZED INFANTRY OVER 3 OR 4 YEAR SPAN, WITH CENTERPIECE OF 108 TANKS, WOULD NOT CHANGE BALANCE OF POWER IN AREA, EVEN IF IT IS SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED.

(B) GOM'S ARMED FORCES VERY WEAK FOLLOWING 1972 COUP ATTEMPT AND EQUIPMENT LOSSES RESULTING FROM 1973 ARAB-ISRAELI WAR. IN FACT MOROCCO ONLY HAS 25-SOVIET-MADE TANKS LEFT OUT OF FORMER TOTAL OF 120, AND ONLY 75 FRENCH-MADE AMY LIGHT TANKS STILL OPERATIONAL.

(C) WE HAVE INFORMED KING HASSAN THAT WE WOULD CONSIDER MILITARY SALES BUT THAT THERE ARE SHORTAGES IN U.S. AND DELIVERY TIMES ARE LONG. IN FACT, THE WHOLE PROGRAM IS NOT YET THAT WELL-DEFINED BECAUSE USG HAS NOT YET CONTRACTED FOR SUCH SALES NOR HAS GOM INDICATED IT WOULD ACCEPT SUCH LATE DELIVERIES.

(D) WE HAVE ALREADY DELIVERED 26-M-48A-3 TANKS TO MOROCCO, AS GOS KNOWS, OUT OF TOTAL OF 108. WE MAY DELIVER 28 MORE IN 1976, WITH BALANCE OF 54 NOT ARRIVING UNTIL 1977 OR 78. (HERE ALBA COMMENTED THAT SPAIN KNEW
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ALL ABOUT 26 TANKS BECAUSE THEY WERE SEEN IN CADIZ HARBOR ENROUTE TO MOROCCO).

(E) GOM WISHES BUY ARMORED PERSONNEL CARRIERS, BUT THEY COULD NOT BE DELIVERED BY U.S. MANUFACTURERS UNTIL 1978 AT EARLIEST.

(F) IF USG WERE NOT RESPONSIVE, GOM WOULD LOOK TO SOVIET

OR EUROPEAN SUPPLIERS. BY OFFERING MATERIAL OURSELVES, WE ARE IN BETTER POSITION TO PLAY MODERATING ROLE WITH MOROCCAN MILITARY. FURTHERMORE, SPAIN SHOULD BE AWARE OF HASSAN'S COMMITMENT THAT THIS MATERIAL NOT BE USED AGAINST FRIENDS OF USG, ESPECIALLY SPAIN.

(G) GOM ALSO WANTS ANTI-AIRCRAFT AND ANTI-TANK SYSTEMS, TRUCKS, RADAR AND COMMUNICATION EQUIPMENT BUT MOST ITEMS WILL TAKE FROM TWO TO THREE YEARS FOR DELIVERY.

(H) GOM HAS ASKED FOR PRICES OF 20 F-5E AIRCRAFT BUT NONE YET ORDERED. DELIVERY TIME WOULD BE AT LEAST TWO YEARS AND NO OTHER TYPES HAVE BEEN DISCUSSED.

4. ALBA COMMENTED THAT GOS WOULD BE WORRIED ABOUT ANY PLANES MORE SOPHISTICATED THAN THE F-5'S WHICH SPAIN NOW OWNS. HE ASKED IF USG PLANNED SELL MOROCCO ANY ASHVILLE-CLASS MISSILE LAUNCHERS. HE ALSO ASKED WHAT TYPE AMMO WOULD ACCOMPANY TANKS. SISCO PROMISED TO GET HIM ANSWERS TO THESE QUERIES. WHEN SISCO MENTIONED THE POSSIBILITY OF SELLING ANTI-TANK AND ANTI-AIRCRAFT SYSTEMS, ALBA ASKED IF THESE WOULD INCLUDE MISSILES. BEFORE SISCO REPLIED, ALBA WENT ON ABOUT DIFFERENT KINDS OF MISSILES (GROUND-TO-AIR, AIR-TO-AIR, ETC.) AND OTHER SUBJECTS. THEN, ALBA INADVERTENTLY DROPPED THE SUBJECT AND NO SPECIFIC ANSWER WAS GIVEN TO HIS QUESTION.

5. ALBA SAID HE WAS GRATEFUL AND RELIEVED BY THE INFORMATION PROVIDED HIM. SISCO REPLIED THAT HE HAD SUPPLIED THIS INFO IN SPIRIT OF CLOSE COOPERATION AND CONSULTATION EXISTING BETWEEN TWO GOVERNMENTS. HE CAUTIONED ALBA THAT ABOVE INFO BE KEPT IN STRICTEST SECRET

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CONFIDENCE.

6. IN REPLY TO ALBA'S QUESTION, SISCO GAVE BRIEF RUNDOWN OF U.S. EFFORTS TO MAKE PROGRESS IN MIDDLE EAST SETTLEMENT.

7. THE EMBASSY SHOULD USE FOR-GOING WITH THE FOREIGN MINISTRY AT THE HIGHEST POSSIBLE LEVEL TO REINFORCE UNDER SECRETARY SISCO'S BRIEFING OF AMBASSADOR ALBA.

8. REPLIES TO QUESTIONS ASKED BY ALBA IN PARA (4) ABOVE WILL BE PROVIDED BY SEPTTEL EARLY NEXT WEEK. KISSINGER

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